their wake considerable stress and strain on banking system as a whole.

(e) With a view to improve functioning of Public Sector Banks and their profitability, banks have been advised by RBI to prepare their comprehensive Action Plan, the objectives of which are :

(1) Improvement of banks' operational efficiency by strengthening the organisational structure.

(2) Upgradation of internal supervision and control system.

(3) Enhancing capacity and quality of training for human resources development.

(4) Improving customer service and house keeping.

(5) Reinforcing financial viability by better credit management, higher productivity, economy in expenditure, recovery of bank dues.

(6) Introducing new technology in a phased manner.

[Translation]

IAF Plane Crashes

4146. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL :
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian Air Force plane crashed during the last three years;

(b) the number of Air Force personnel killed therein; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to curb such crashes ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) There were 84 accidents during the period 1988-89 to 1990-91.

(b) 79.

(c) Efforts to minimise accidents are an ongoing process. Every accident is investigated by a Court of Inquiry comprising specialists. Based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, follow up action is taken to prevent recurrence of similar accidents. Whenever any adverse trend or weak area is observed, special joint studies are carried out with the help of specialists from the manufacturers and the users to closely examine the problem and take suitable remedial measures. Action on the various recommendations of a high level Committee which examined all aspects of Flight Safety, accepted by Govt., has been completed.

[English]

Facilities for Coastal Shipping

4147. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Transport Policy Committee and the National Shipping Board have suggested the Government to provide necessary facilities to encourage coastal shipping;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the important recom-

mendations of National Transport Policy Committee relating to Coastal Shipping were coordination of Coastal operations, modernisation of Coastal fleet, freedom of operations, simplification of custom procedures, improvement in port facilities, priority berthing for coastal vessels, simplification and rationalisation of procedures for revision and fixation of freight rates, etc. Salient recommendations of National Shipping Board were formation of a separate Directorate for development of coastal shipping, initiative from S.D.F.C. to allocate and reserve 20-25% of its funds for coastal shipping, development of shipyards competent to construct/repair coastal vessels, differentiation of import/export cargo vis-a-vis coastal cargo, development and modernisation of intermediate and major ports, reduction of construction and operational costs to make coastal shipping viable, etc.

(c) The Government have taken various measures to encourage development of coastal shipping. These include the simplification of custom procedure in respect of coastal vessels, delegation of powers to fix/revise coastal tariff, permission to acquire fresh tonnage for coastal shipping with reference to the age and fuel efficiency of the vessels and concessional rates of port dues and port charges. Coastal movement of coal for Thermal Power Stations located in the Eastern and Western Coasts of South India, is actively encouraged as a matter of conscious Government Policy. Coastal Shipping is moving ever increasing quantities of bulk cargoes, particularly coal and P.O.L.

Grant of Funds to Sick Units under Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Scheme

4148. SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the norms for grant of funds to sick textile units under the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Scheme;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to relax the guidelines for releasing funds under the above scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme applies to such textile units which are either licensed under I (D&R) Act, 1951 or registered with Textile Commissioner as medium scale units and which are declared completely closed after 5-6-85 under section 25(o) of the Industrial Dispute Act or alternatively an official liquidator is appointed under the Company's Act, 1956 in the process of winding up of the unit.

(b) and (c) The matter is being examined.

Maintenance of National Highway No. 17 in Kerala Sector

4149. SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway No. 17 passing through Kerala is not in a road worthy condition;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned for improvement and maintenance of National Highway No. 17 in Kerala sector and the amount actually spent;